steam-launch service was now left to the mercy of private firms who conducted it in the most irregular and haphazard manner, often putting passengers to great difficulty and bitter disappointment. He suggested that Government might themselves start steam-boat service between Alleppey and Kottayam and thus afford some relief to the people of those localities.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (Nominated), Mr. P. Kesava Pillai, B. A., B. L., and Mr. K. Krishnan Pandalay, B. A., B. L., (Quilon) who had against their names the allied subject of deepening the water-way between Trivandrum and Alleppey with a view to render it fit for steam-launch navigation, said that as the matter had been already replied to, they had nothing to say on the subject newly.

Reply.—This is also a matter for private enterprise, and it will be seen that some firms are already engaged in plying steam boats. As already mentioned in reply to representation No. 128, the question of investing a large sum in the improvement of water-ways is already engaging the attention of Government.

138. Opening of harbours towards the development of coasting trade.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, B. A., B. L., (T. I. C., Alleppey) suggested that with a view to bring the coasting trade of the State to a more flourishing and satisfactory condition, more harbours might be opened wherever possible and a customs-house attached to each of them.

Reply.—It is doubtful if the member has sufficiently realized the magnitude of his proposal and the important issues involved in it. It means prohibitive cost, not to speak of numerous other difficulties in the way. There is a harbour now at Alleppey as well as a port at Quilon. We cannot think of opening any more harbours now. As regards customs-houses, the question may be brought to the notice of the Excise Commissioner, who will then consider the same.

139. Improvement of the Sri Mulam Harbour.

Mr. M. Bhuthalingam Pillai (Eraniel) observed that the condition of the Sri Mulam Harbour in South Travancore left much room for improvement.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly